

Agencies Meet Cleanup Goals for 2005

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

New equipment and a hazardous waste disposal system have contributed to a successful cleanup season.

According to Jim Hahnenberg, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency remedial project manager, geotubes used to store and drain dredged sediment from Little Lake Butte des Morts, were successful in removing water from dredged sediment making landfill disposal possible. The large geotextile tubes, along with all other aspects of the operation, will be evaluated over the winter to make improvements for next year's work.

"We've met our production goals," he said. "The companies will have addressed most, if not all, of the sediment deposits that were targeted for this year."

As for hazardous waste that has to be shipped out of state due to its high levels of PCB contamination, Hahnenberg explained that everything is going as planned. "Hazardous waste is now being taken to a facility in Michigan for proper disposal," he stated. "There is less than 10,000 cubic yards which is equal to the area of a football field and about the height of an adult—at least 6 feet high. This is about what was expected."

Hahnenberg added that this year's information will be used to plan next year's cleanup plan. "Results from this year's operation will be evaluated over the winter," he continued. "Based on that evaluation, next year's operation will be adjusted."

Work ended in early December and is expected to resume next spring depending on weather conditions and any necessary modifications that need to be made to the lake cleanup's drainage system.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LITTLE LAKE CLEANUP TEAM WEB SITE

Sediment is dewatering in geotextile tubes located in the staging area.

A report which discusses the downstream portion of the cleanup is still being reviewed by EPA and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Referred to as the Basis of Design report, it focuses on the cleanup in greater detail. Although the cleanup was originally outlined in the 2003 document called the record of decision, this report breaks down the cleanup. For example, it specifies exactly where to place a cap, what type of cap (sand, rock, etc.) to use and how it will be designed or engineered.

Hahnenberg explained that a "cover" is different from a cap. "A sand cover would only be used over areas that had been dredged as a final action," he said. "A cover is just 6 inches of sand that may or may not be permanent. However, for sediment with lower PCB levels, a 6-inch sand cover is adequate even if it doesn't remain in place. If the sand mixes with the

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NRDA Funds Contribute to New Allouez Park

By Tom Turner, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Nov. 1, 2005 was a red-letter day as the village of Allouez in Brown County, Wis. dedicated Wiese Family Park, the newest addition to the village of Allouez parks system. The 29-acre park was named in memory of Wilfred and Mary Wiese who owned and farmed the property for many years.

It was a festive fall day as residents, officials and several generations of the Wiese family gathered to cut the ribbon that officially opened the park and then enjoyed light refreshments.

The park project was funded primarily by natural resource damage assessment funds contributed by Georgia-Pacific as part of its cooperative effort with the state of Wisconsin and federal government to clean up the Lower Fox River. Stewardship grant funding was provided by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and a financial contribution was made by local businessman, Dick Resch, president and chief executive officer of KI.

“Our parks are an important part of our community,” said Allouez President Patricia O’Neill. “Adding this riverside location to our park system is tremendous and allows us to serve more families in the community. Without the funding support of Georgia-Pacific, DNR and Mr. Resch, we would not have been able to develop this new park facility.”

Speaking on behalf of the family, the Wiese’s daughter Diane Baenen said, “This is an area that will



Representatives from village of Allouez, DNR and Georgia-Pacific join Wiese family members to cut the ribbon at the Allouez Wiese Family Park at the Nov. 1 dedication.

always be special to our family, and we hope for many other families who can now enjoy it.”

DNR Secretary Scott Hassett noted that one of the best aspects of the NRDA funding is that this money allows communities to leverage other funding sources and contributions to create bigger and better projects.

The park features three multipurpose fields in a 6-acre recreation area, a 16-acre prairie grass restoration area, a three-fourth-mile crushed stone trail along the East River through the restored prairie, a fishing pier along the crushed stone trail, a one-fourth-mile paved extension of the Resch Family–East River trail, a 28-foot hexagon-shaped shelter and a paved 48-car parking lot. Development of Wiese Family Park cost \$704,000.

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DNR Participates in Public Meeting

By Greg Swanson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff participated in a Nov. 3 public meeting on the status of design work to clean up a portion of the Lower Fox River.

Held in Green Bay, representatives of Georgia-Pacific and NCR Corp. hosted the meeting to present sampling results collected on the river over the past six months from Appleton to Green Bay.

About 100 people learned that to bring the design plans to their current level (about 30 percent complete), a much more extensive sampling effort was done, especially from the De Pere Dam to the mouth of the river. Based on this additional sampling, the amount of PCB-contaminated sediment is about 20 percent greater than the amount originally estimated in the record of decision, the document done in 2003 that outlines the final cleanup plan.

The additional sampling has also helped identify the areas where a cap, identified as a contingency or backup plan in the record of decision, might be a more effective cleanup solution than dredging alone. As design work continues into 2006, further details on defining the scope of dredging and sediment disposal plans will be developed and made available to the public.

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Al Toma, regional manager of government affairs for Georgia-Pacific said, "It's great to be able to work with the village of Allouez and help make this new park a reality. This, and the other projects made possible by the NRDA agreement will benefit residents throughout the area."

Village of Allouez Park Director Brad Lange, who served as the master of ceremonies, will manage the park's future development.

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PCB-contaminated sediment, the levels would be low enough so that they would not be a major concern."

Two of the companies determined to be responsible for PCB contamination in the remainder of the river and bay have proposed dredging as well as some other options for the stretches of the river from Little Rapids to De Pere and from De Pere to Green Bay. They have also made proposals concerning limited areas in the stretch of the river from Appleton to Little Rapids and into Green Bay near the mouth of the river. NCR Corp. and Georgia-Pacific would like to dredge parts of these reaches and top them off with a cap.

"In some cases, dredging wouldn't be as deep, maybe 15 feet," Hahnenberg stated. "On average, dredging may go only 4 to 5 feet with a cap on top. This is all being explored because it is not included in the record of decision."

If changes to the record of decision are considered by the agencies, opportunities for public comment would be provided.



Out and About...

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership is made up of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin. These partners, as well as other supporting agencies, regularly provide speakers to organizations in the Fox Valley area. The following people recently made presentations:

November

- ◆ *Doug Cox*, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin: NOAA Great Lakes Regional natural resource damage assessment workshop, Chicago; stakeholder (tribal) perspectives.

The Fox River Current is featuring promising natural resource damage assessment projects in and near the Lower Fox River.

Spotlight On:

New Brown County Parks Building at Waterfowl Preserve

By Colette Charbonneau, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

L.H. Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve includes a new multipurpose building that will be used for nature-related educational exhibits and programs. Listed as a state-designated wildlife viewing area, it includes a new building which took about six months to construct. (See related article in the May/June 2005 *Current*.) It was built to look like a barn that would fit into the country setting of the preserve. Located along the west shore of Green Bay, the preserve includes a 2,700-square-foot building with a large classroom, a work area where children can build birdhouses, office space, and a heated storage area for equipment and tools. It also houses an aquaculture room where school groups can learn how to raise fish that will be released into Brown County parks.

The Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council, which approved the project as part of a Fort James/Georgia-Pacific natural resource damage assessment settlement, also allocated funds for upgrading five of the nine miles of trails on the preserve. The trails were made wider and harder with crushed stone to provide better access for visitors with mobility impairments.

“Next spring a marsh observation platform will be constructed,” explained Doug Hartman, Brown County naturalist and manager of the preserve. “The platform will overlook Green Bay coastal wetlands. This will provide a unique opportunity for viewing wildlife.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

This new 2,700-square-foot building constructed on the L.H. Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve will be used for nature-related educational exhibits and programs.

This natural area is comprised of approximately 1,000 acres of forest, meadows and wetlands. A wide variety of ducks, geese, wildlife and plants call this area “home.” It also contains a wetland that is managed for northern pike spawning and serves as a nursery area for newly hatched fish. Scenic hiking trails run through the marshes and forests and are groomed for cross-country skiing in the winter.

“The funds provided from the NRDA settlement have been very helpful in providing upgrades to Barkhausen,” stated Hartman. “We now have enough space where children can participate in hands-on resource and conservation projects that will provide a better awareness and appreciation of the environment.”

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Community Involvement Conference Slated for Milwaukee in 2006

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

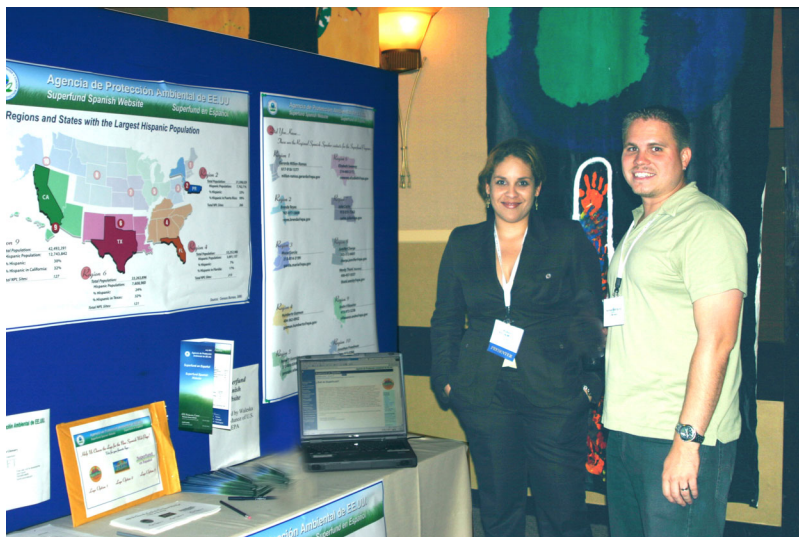
If you are interested in networking with community involvement and public participation professionals from government agencies, tribes, environmental organizations and the private-sector, then mark your calendar for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's annual Community Involvement Conference and Training set for June 27-30, 2006 in Milwaukee.

This conference, which is expected to draw more than 450 people, is geared toward EPA and its partners who plan and implement environmental outreach, stewardship and education programs. Several large and small sessions, field trips, exhibits, poster areas, evening activities, and training workshops will be offered.

Presentation proposals are being accepted through Jan. 18, 2006. They should focus on:

- changing public behaviors
- communications
- community-based pollution prevention/reduction
- community involvement tools and techniques
- measuring environmental impacts on community involvement
- partnerships
- policy initiatives
- other topics that address a hot issue or current trend in public outreach

Proposals can offer 1 ½ or 2 ½-hour lectures, case studies, panel discussions, training courses or interactive exercises; four or eight-hour workshops to teach a novice, intermediate or advanced skill; or 2 ½ to 3 ½-hour Milwaukee-area field trips to see first-hand how a community can achieve desired environmental results.



Two people attending the 2005 conference admire one of the entries in the poster contest.

To submit a proposal, go to www.epa.gov/ciconference/2006/index.htm for the application and instructions. This Web site, which will be updated often, also includes details on how to offer a display, exhibit, or open-time session. General registration and hotel information will be posted in March.

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The natural resource trustees are comprised of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Michigan Attorney General, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For further information on NRDA projects, contact Trustee Council Coordinator Colette Charbonneau, FWS, at Colette_Charbonneau@fws.gov or at (920) 866-1726.

Profile On ... Rich Murawski

EPA Attorney Works Hard, Plays Hard

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

When Rich Murawski learned that his office was looking for someone to assume the role of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency attorney for the Lower Fox River, he admits that he had no idea what the job entailed.

"I always liked working on sediment sites, but I didn't really know too much about this project," he said. "I didn't realize that this will be the largest PCB cleanup with such a large price tag. That was eye opening. I also didn't know that the largest conglomeration of paper companies in the world was located along the Fox. The site file is immense."

Despite his recent eye-opening experience, Murawski, 40, has worked on many complicated Superfund projects in his 16 years with EPA. He has another site involving contaminated sediment, one that involved contaminants in an Indiana river and another in which he was able to get a \$38 million settlement from 400 companies responsible for PCB contamination in the Toledo, Ohio area.

"I bring a lot of Superfund experience to the table," said the Chicago native. "Originally, I was a member of EPA's sediment task force when it was first started at EPA."

That experience will come in handy as he becomes more involved and more familiar with the Lower Fox River. "This is definitely the biggest team situation I've been involved in," he continued. "I have worked on several teams that involve a lot of programs, but we have more intergovernmental agencies to work with here."

According to Murawski, his legal team members, as well as his EPA team members, have been supportive. "It seems like everyone is very committed," he added.



Rich Murawski

There are many other reasons why he is enjoying his work on the Lower Fox River. "I like the technology," he said. "I have never experienced dredges as up close as I did when I took a tour of Little Lake Butte des Morts. It was good to see the actual cleanup being done. It will all have a positive affect on people, the river and Green Bay. Someday, we'll be able to say the river is clean."

Although Murawski has Wisconsin ties, he explained that he has stayed close to home to attend school as well as pursue his career. He earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Chicago's Loyola University in 1987 and a juris doctor degree in 1990 from the program in Environmental and Energy Law at Illinois Institute of Technology also in Chicago. He started working in EPA's Office of Regional Counsel while still a law student. "I knew in law school that I wanted to come to EPA," he said.

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He often ventures out of the Chicago area, however, to visit relatives. "The Murawskis came from Poland and settled in Milwaukee," he explained. "In 1938, my grandfather came to Chicago.

When he isn't visiting his Milwaukee relatives, he travels throughout Wisconsin with his country and western band the Gin Palace Jesters. Murawski, who is the band's drummer, has played in many of the state's venues including Tom's Garage in Appleton and Vnucks in Cudahy.

Murawski, who is married and the father of three children under the age of 5, also spends time in Wisconsin skiing and snowboarding. "I've snowboarded in Devil's Head near Madison, Cascade near Portage and Alpine Valley which is close to Lake Geneva," he concluded. "The kids will start next year."

**Check out these Web sites:**

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/foxriver/index.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/foxriver/>

<http://contaminants.fws.gov/Issues/Restoration.cfm>

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nrda/index.html>

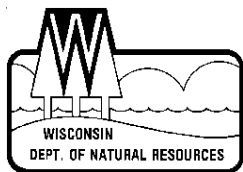
Information Available at Local Libraries

The Intergovernmental Partners invite the public to review technical reports, fact sheets and other documents related to the Lower Fox River cleanup at information repositories set up in the reference sections of the local libraries listed below. Information repositories at the public libraries in De Pere, Kaukauna, Little Chute, Neenah and Wrightstown have been discontinued. However, binders containing fact sheets are being maintained at these locations as well as at the following repositories:

- **Appleton Public Library**, 225 N. Oneida St., Appleton, Wis.; (920) 832-6170
- **Brown County Library**, 515 Pine St., Green Bay, Wis.; (920) 448-4381, Ext. 394
- **Door County Library**, 107 S. Fourth Ave., Sturgeon Bay, Wis.; (920) 743-6578
- **Oneida Community Library**, 201 Elm St., Oneida, Wis.; (920) 869-2210
- **Oshkosh Public Library**, 106 Washington Ave., Oshkosh, Wis.; (920) 236-5205



An administrative record, which contains detailed information upon which the selection of the final site cleanup plan was based, is also available for review at two DNR offices: 801 E. Walnut St., Green Bay, Wis. and 101 S. Webster St., 2nd Floor, Madison, Wis. An administrative record is also available at the EPA Record Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., 7th Floor, Chicago, Ill.



Prepared by the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Supporting agencies include Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in these articles are solely those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by all members of the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership.

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